

Appln. Serial No. 09/882,581
Amendment Dated May 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action Mailed February 15, 2006

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated February 15, 2006, claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Cynthia Hood, "Intelligent Detection for Fault Management of Communication Networks" (1996) (hereinafter "Hood").

It is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Hood. Claim 1 recites a probabilistic reasoning network coupled to the evaluators to receive the assessment from each of the evaluators and to analyze the assessments in accordance with a pre-configured reasoning definition so as to provide an overall probabilistic health assessment of the target element, where the probabilistic reasoning network analyzes the assessments from the evaluators according to *information indicating reliabilities of the respective evaluators*.

The Office Action cited page 6 of Hood as disclosing the probabilistic reasoning network recited in claim 1. 2/15/2006 Office Action at 3. Note that although Hood discloses use of a Bayesian network, which combines estimated probabilities for each data sample with prior knowledge to create a node's view of network behavior, there is no teaching in Hood that its Bayesian network analyzes assessments from evaluators according to information indicating *reliabilities of the respective evaluators*.

Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Hood.

Independent claim 9 is also not disclosed by Hood. Claim 9 recites a health assessment system having a health assessment engine that receives measures of a target element, where the health assessment engine has a probabilistic reasoning network to provide health assessment of the target element based on the received measures and historical measures of the target element. The health assessment system of claim 9 further includes a result formatting module that formats the health assessment into a report, and a web interface that transmits the formatted report to a remote access system via the Internet.

The Office Action cited page 24, lines 1-7, of Hood as disclosing the result formatting module of claim 9, and page 17, lines 1-7 and page 24, lines 1-7, of Hood as disclosing the web interface of claim 9. The cited passage on page 24 of Hood refers to each workstation or PC using a UNIX operating system having a *syslog* process running. When a problem is encountered on one of these machines, an error message is generated by the *syslog* process, which error message is sent to a network management machine. Note that this passage refers to

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individual workstations or PCs using a feature of the UNIX operating system to provide an error message to a network management machine. The error message discussed in this passage of Hood is not a health assessment provided by a probabilistic reasoning network based on measures of a target element.

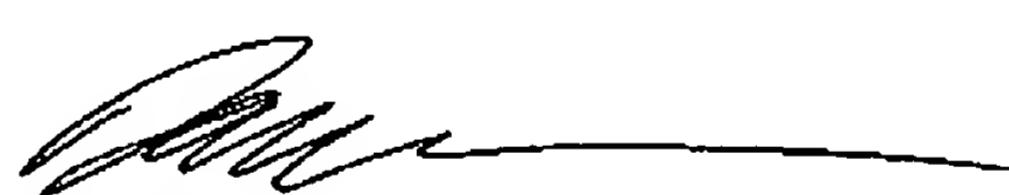
The passage on page 17, lines 1-7, of Hood cited by the Office Action refers to individual agents (see Fig. 3.1 of Hood) (associated with workstations, file servers, printers, etc.) communicating with a central network manager through a network management protocol over a TCP/IP network. The individual agents communicate MIB variables containing collected data (see page 16, line 3, and page 17, lines 14-15, of Hood) to the network manager of Hood – however, there is no teaching in Hood that the agents contain a probabilistic reasoning network to provide a health assessment, which health assessment is formatted into a report and transmitted to a remote access system via the internet. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 is also not anticipated by Hood.

Dependent claims, including newly added dependent claims 18-20, are also allowable for at least the same reasons as corresponding independent claims.

Allowance of all claims is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025 (10004117-1).

Respectfully submitted,

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Dan C. Hu
Registration No. 40,025
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.
8554 Katy Freeway, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77024
Telephone: (713) 468-8880
Facsimile: (713) 468-8883